

Message Text

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINR, SP

SUBJECT: EMERGING POLITICAL GROUPINGS

1. DEPT WISHES TO COMMEND RECENT REPORTING ON DEVELOPMENT AND EMERGENCE OF VARIOUS POLITICAL GROUPINGS, PARTICULARLY "JUNTA DEMOCRATICA" AND "CONFERENCIA DEMOCRATICA". IT IS EVIDENT THAT GROUPS REPRESENTING ALMOST ENTIRE RANGE OF POLITICAL OPINION ARE NOW JOCKEYING FOR POSITION IN EXPECTATION THAT INTERNAL SITUATION OPENING UP. WE SHALL RELY ON POSTS TO REMAIN ALERT TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND TO INSURE THAT ALL APPROPRIATE POSSIBLE CONTACTS ARE FOLLOWED UP AND REPORTED.

2. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THESE POLITICALLY ACTIVE SPANIARDS, DEPT ASSUMES THAT EMBASSY OFFICERS ARE MAKING SURE THAT POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT US
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VIEWS AND POLICY ARE CORRECTED. FOR EXAMPLE, WE WOULD

NOT AGREE THAT DETENTE MEANS THAT ORGANIZED COMMUNIST PARTIES ARE NO LONGER "PARIAHS ON THE POLITICAL SCENE IN WESTERN EUROPE". DETENTE REFERS PRINCIPALLY TO CAREFULLY LIMITED ASPECTS OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND IS MADE POSSIBLE BY FIRM AND CREDIBLE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, ESPECIALLY IN EUROPEAN CONTEXT. IT SHOULD BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY OUR FRIENDS THAT WE CONTINUE TO HAVE DEEP MISGIVINGS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MAKE COMMUNISTS APPEAR AS RESPECTABLE PARTICIPANTS IN DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROCESSES.

3. WE ARE DISTURBED BY TENDENCY OF SOME SPANISH MODERATE LEADERS TO CLIMB ABOARD PCE-INSPIRED "JUNTA DEMOCRATICA" ON GROUNDS THAT CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE COOPERATION WITH COMMUNISTS. WHILE IT IS DOUBTLESS TRUE THAT LOCAL LABOR DISPUTES MAY REQUIRE LOCAL LEADERS OR MANAGERS TO DEAL WITH COMMUNISTS IN WORKERS COMMISSIONS, THIS SHOULD NOT JUSTIFY NON-COMMUNIST OPPOSITION LEADERS IN JOINING NATIONAL POLITICAL ALLIANCES WITH PCE. DESPITE DISCLAIMERS THAT SUCH ALLIANCES ONLY TACTICAL, WE BELIEVE EXPERIENCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES DEMONSTRATES THAT IT IS COMMUNISTS WHO BENEFIT MOST FROM POPULAR FRONTS.

4. ALL PERSONNEL SHOULD BE ALERT IN ALL PERSONAL CONTACTS TO OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLAIN US VIEWS ON THESE MATTERS, ESPECIALLY IN SITUATIONS WHERE SILENCE COULD BE CONSTRUED AS ACQUIESCENCE. THIS INSTRUCTION SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS A CALL FOR BUTTON-HOLING CAMPAIGN, BUT RATHER AS ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OFFICERS IN THEIR NORMAL CONTACTS TO USE OWN JUDGMENT AND DISCREETLY CONVEY THESE VIEWS AS APPROPRIATE. SUCH COMMENTS ARE PARTICULARLY TIMELY IN VIEW OF RECENT SOCIALIST AMBIVALENCE ABOUT JOINING JUNTA DEMOCRATICA OR CONFERENCIA DEMOCRATICA BUT APPLY ALSO TO OTHER EMERGING OR EXISTING OPINION GROUPS LOOKING FOR BROADER AFFILIATIONS. MAIN POINT IS TO INSURE THAT RECEPTIVE SPANISH RECEIVE UNAMBIGUOUS SIGNALS OF US VIEWS.

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